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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,231	01/14/2002	Takeyoshi Ito	0879-0370P	6198
2292	7590	10/18/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			HO, TUAN V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/043,231

Applicant(s)

ITO, TAKEYOSHI

Examiner

Tuan V. Ho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-3, 12, 14, 18-24 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9, 13, 15-17 and 25-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 12, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sobol (US 20002/0071035).

With regard to claim 23, Sobol discloses in Figs. 7 and 3, a digital camera docking station that comprises the digital camera (digital camera 200, [0033], it is noted that the base unit 404 has the same functions as cradle 150 [0055]; thus, base unit 404 includes the same circuit elements as disclosed in Fig. 3), second communication terminal through which two-way communication with an external apparatus is performed (lines 266 and 268, [0034] and [0041]), and a cradle (cradle 150 [0039]) comprising a camera mounting section on which the digital camera is removably mounted (a recess of cradle 150); and a first communication terminal which is connected to the external apparatus (lines 414 or 412, [0055]), wherein the first

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communication terminal and the second communication terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section (lines 266 and 268 are connected to printer 326 or electrical connection 330 via processor 314, [0037])).

With regard to claim 24, Sobol discloses in Figs. 7 and 3, a digital camera docking station that comprises the digital camera further comprises a detection device which detects an electronic connection between the digital camera and the cradle (current sensor 254 and processor 314[0039] and [0040]); and the digital camera sets an operation mode thereof at a communication mode for communicating with the external apparatus when the detection device detects that the first communication terminal and the second communication terminal are connected to each other (processor 264 sets camera 200 in a communication mode; where camera connections 266 and 268 are connected with line 328 of the printer, [0041])).

With regard to claim 29, Sobol discloses in Figs. 7 and 3, a digital camera docking station that comprises the digital camera further comprises a power input terminal through which DC power is inputted (battery 258 includes power input terminals 218 and 220); the cradle further comprises a power output terminal through which the DC power is outputted (power supply

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292 includes power output terminals 294 and 296); and the power input terminal and the power output terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section (detent mechanism 300 connects power supplies of camera and cradle 150 [0035]).

With regard to claim 30, Sobol discloses in Figs. 7 and 3, a digital camera docking station that comprises the power input terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera (input terminals 218 and 2220 are located at the bottom of the camera as shown in Fig. 3); the digital camera mounting section of the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera (cradle 150 has a recess as shown in Fig. 3); the power output terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess (terminals 166 and 164); and the power input terminal of the digital camera and the power output terminal of the cradle are connected to each other in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle (camera is mounted properly as shown in Fig. 3, [0033]) and [0034]).

Claims 1, 2 and 3 recite what was discussed with respect to claims 23, 24 and 25.

Claim 12 recites what was discussed with respect to claim 30.

Claim 14 recites what was discussed with respect claim 23.

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Claims 18 and 19 recite what was discussed with respect to claims 29 and 30.

Claim 22 recites what was discussed with respect to claim 30.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 10, 11, 20, 21, 31, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol.

With regard to claim 31, Sobol discloses the same subject matter as discussed with respect to claim 23, except that the digital camera further comprises an audio output terminal; the cradle further comprises an audio input terminal; and the audio output terminal and the audio/video input terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section.

Sobol does not disclose any audio output terminal. However, Official Notice is taken for a digital camera that includes an

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audio terminal so as to transmit recoded audio signals with video signals for play back.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate an audio signal terminal in the camera system Sobol so as to output audio/video to the cradle 150 because the output audio/video signals to the cradle would enhance the video images with audio sound.

It is noted that in the combination, the audio/video output terminals would be connections terminals 266, 268 and 312 and 320, which are modified so as to conduct audio/video signals.

With regard to claim 32, recites what was discussed with respect to claim 30.

Claims 33 recites what was discussed with respect to claim 32.

Claims 10 and 11 recite what was discussed with respect to claims 31 and 32.

Claims 20 and 21 recite what was discussed with respect to claims 31 and 32.

4. Claims 4-9, 13, 15-17 and 25-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if

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rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shindo et al discloses a docking station that includes a printer.

Okamoto et al discloses a video phone that includes a charger.

Hashimoto et al discloses an electronic camera that comprises an external communication interface.

Rissman discloses a camera system that includes a digital camera and a hot shoe receptor.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN HO whose telephone number is (571) 272-7365. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7AM to 4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (572) 273-8300.



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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan Ho', with a stylized, flowing script.

TUAN HO

Primary Examiner

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